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In re Application of	:	
Flohr et al.	:	
Application No.: 10/586,816	:	DECISION
PCT No.: PCT/EP05/50105	:	
Int. Filing Date: 12 January 2005	:	ON
Priority Date: 20 January 2004	:	
Attorney Docket No.: 1033275-000487	:	PETITION
For: Premixing Burner Arrangement For	:	
Operating A Combustion Chamber	:	
And Method For Operating A Com...	:	

This is in response to the petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) filed on 04 April 2007.

BACKGROUND

This international application was filed on 12 January 2005, claimed an earlier priority date of 20 January 2004, and designated the U.S. The International Bureau transmitted a copy of the published international application to the USPTO on 08 July 2005. The 30 month time period for paying the basic national fee in the United States expired at midnight on 20 July 2006. Applicants filed *inter alia* the basic national fee on 20 July 2006.

DISCUSSION

Petitioner refers to the instant petition as a copy of a petition filed on "06 December 2006." Inspection of both the petition filed on 01 December 2006 and the instant petition filed on 04 April 2007 reveals that neither petition was directed toward the instant application; instead, both petitions were directed toward application no. 11/586,816. The instant petition is being treated on the merits in view of applicants' correspondence filed on 04 April 2007, directed to the instant application and requesting treatment of the petition.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) must be accompanied by (1) the fee under 37 CFR 1.17(h), (2) factual proof that the missing joint inventor refuses to execute the application or cannot be reached after diligent effort, (3) a statement of the last known address of the missing inventor, and (4) an oath or declaration by each 37 CFR 1.47(a) applicant on his or her own behalf and on behalf of the non-signing joint inventor.

Regarding **requirement (1)**, the \$200.00 petition fee was paid on 01 December 2006, and applied to application no. 11/586,816. That petition fee is being applied to the instant application.

Regarding **requirement (2)**, petitioner seeks relief under 37 CFR 1.47(a) on the basis that "joint inventor Christian Oliver Paschereit has refused to sign the Declaration." Counsel's attention is respectfully drawn to MPEP 409.03(d), which states in part:

A refusal by an inventor to sign an oath or declaration when the inventor has not been presented with the application papers does not itself suggest that the inventor is refusing to join the application unless it is clear that the inventor understands exactly what he or she is being asked to sign and refuses to accept the application papers. A copy of the application papers should be sent to the last known address of the nonsigning inventor, or, if the nonsigning inventor is represented by counsel, to the address of the nonsigning inventor's attorney. The fact that an application may contain proprietary information does not relieve the 37 CFR 1.47 applicant of the responsibility to present the application papers to the inventor if the inventor is willing to receive the papers in order to sign the oath or declaration. It is noted that the inventor may obtain a complete copy of the application, unless the inventor has assigned his or her interest in the application, and the assignee has requested that the inventor not be permitted access. See MPEP § 106. It is reasonable to require that the inventor be presented with the application papers before a petition under 37 CFR 1.47 is granted since such a procedure ensures that the inventor is apprised of the application to which the oath or declaration is directed. *In re Gray*, 115 USPQ 80 (Comm'r Pat. 1956).

Where a refusal of the inventor to sign the application papers is alleged, the circumstances of the presentation of the application papers and of the refusal must be specified in a statement of facts by the person who presented the inventor with the application papers and/or to whom the refusal was made. Statements by a party not present when an oral refusal is made will not be accepted. Proof that a bona fide attempt was made to present a copy of the application papers (specification, including claims, drawings, and oath or declaration) to the nonsigning inventor for signature, but the inventor refused to accept delivery of the papers or expressly stated that the application papers should not be sent, may be sufficient. When there is an express oral refusal, that fact along with the time and place of the refusal must be stated in the statement of facts. When there is an express written refusal, a copy of the document evidencing that refusal must be made part of the statement of facts. The document may be redacted to remove material not related to the inventor's reasons for refusal. When it is concluded by the 37 CFR 1.47 applicant that a nonsigning inventor's conduct constitutes a refusal, all facts upon which that conclusion is based should be stated in the statement of facts in support of the petition or directly in the petition. If there is documentary evidence to support facts alleged in the petition or in any statement of facts, such evidence should be submitted. Whenever a nonsigning inventor gives a reason for refusing to sign the application oath or declaration, that reason should be stated in the petition.

Review of the "Declaration... of Anett Fabian" accompanying the petition states in part that on "November 23, 2003, I had a telephone conversation with Mr. Paschereit. During our conversation, Mr. Paschereit stated to me that he would refuse to sign any kind of papers for any kind of application in the future." However, it does not appear that Dr. Paschereit made this refusal after having received an oath or declaration document for execution and a complete copy of the instant application papers. In this regard, petitioner presents a "Declaration... of Yvonne Egger" stating that a letter was sent to Dr. Paschereit on 27 July 2006. Though Ms. Egger states that "a complete copy of the above-identified application, Declaration and Assignment" accompanied the 27 July 2006 letter, petitioner has not provided an English translation of this letter. As such, it has not been established within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.47(a) that Dr. Paschereit has "refused" to execute the instant application.

Regarding **requirement (3)**, the petition includes a statement of Dr. Paschereit's last known address. Accordingly, requirement (3) has been satisfied.

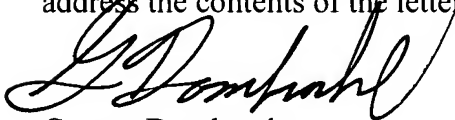
Regarding **requirement (4)**, the declaration of inventorship accompanying the instant petition is not acceptable because it does not properly identify the application to which it is directed (e.g., by application number). As such, requirement (4) has not been satisfied.

DECISION

The petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) is **DISMISSED**, without prejudice.

If reconsideration on the merits of this petition is desired, a proper response must be filed within **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mail date of this decision. Any reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition Under 37 CFR 1.47." No additional petition fee is required. Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). Failure to timely file a proper response will result in **ABANDONMENT**.

Please direct any further correspondence with respect to this matter to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop PCT, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, and address the contents of the letter to the attention of the Office of PCT Legal Administration.



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